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Public Health Bytes

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Henrico Health Department
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On the web at: www.publichealthbytes.org

Communicable Disease Update: West Nile Virus: Henrico County reported its first WNV + mosquito pool in the West End during the week of July 18th. Mosquito surveillance is performed each season in an effort to guide prevention and remediation efforts. This positive mosquito pool is the first report of WNV in Virginia this season. With the heat wave, WNV activity is expected to increase raising the possibility of human disease. No human cases in Virginia have been reported to date. Information and guidance for clinicians are available at the CDC website: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/clinicians/>. An information sheet for your patients is available at: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epi/wnvf.htm>.

National Food Recalls Possibly Linked to Salmonella: Several products possibly linked to *Salmonella typhimurium* cases have been recalled voluntarily in July. The Orchid Island Juice Company, located in Florida, has recalled all unpasteurized orange juice under several different brand names. This orange juice is distributed in Virginia as well as other states and internationally. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Orchid Island Juice Company at (772) 465-1122. A second recall for products containing "cake batter" ice cream sold at Cold Stone Creamery stores throughout the country, occurred in the beginning of July. Associated illness occurred in patients in late May to early June. Additional information regarding either recall may be obtained by checking the FDA website at www.fda.gov (click on the Recall and Product Safety link) Please refer any suspected or confirmed Salmonella illness with one of these exposures to the local health department.

Rapid Reporting of Issues of Public Health Threat: Certain confirmed or suspected reportable diseases in Virginia require rapid notification to the local health department (list of rapidly reportable diseases in bold can be viewed at www.vdh.virginia.gov/epi/list.asp). These diseases are categorized as rapidly reportable because of their extremely contagious nature or their potential for greater harm, or both. Rapidly reportable disease reports should be forwarded to the health department at 804-501-4522 within twenty-four hours, preferably by telecommunications. During off-hours (weeknights, weekends or holidays) any suspected or confirmed rapidly reportable diseases should be communicated to the District Epidemiologist, Seth Levine, via pager at (804) 351-0667. A second method to contact local health department emergency staff includes calling the Virginia Department of Health toll free phone number for medical providers at (866) 531-3068. Additional questions regarding rapid reporting may be directed to Seth Levine at (804) 501-5216. An information sheet outlining contact procedures for health care providers and others required to report can be found at www.publichealthbytes.org under "Procedures for contacting Henrico Health Department."

Emergency Preparedness Update: Treatment of Nuclear & Radiological Injuries: The U.S. Government continues to be concerned about the threat of a terrorist attack using radiological or nuclear devices and/or the targeting of nuclear facilities. Such attacks could produce mass casualties and/or severe psychological effects. In treating casualties in the aftermath of such an event, it is important to note that *the most severe injuries will be physical traumas related to the blast effects*. Additionally, patients may also present with injuries and illnesses related to radiological exposure. Patients who have potentially been exposed to radioactive particles (i.e. fallout) from the blast site should be decontaminated prior to entering a medical facility. This can be accomplished by removing the patient's clothing and washing the patient from head to toe with soap and water. As with any terrorism-related event, it is expected that medical facilities would see a large influx of "worried well". Therefore it is important that the medical community, including hospitals, private practices and the public health departments provide a consistent and coordinated message to the general public. Please see: <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/radiation/#clinicians> for information on medical management of radiological casualties.

Prevention updates: Updates from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) "USPSTF strongly recommends that clinicians screen for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) all adolescents and adults at increased risk for HIV infection." **Rating: A Recommendation.** The USPSTF recommends that clinicians screen all pregnant women for HIV. Rating: **A Recommendation.** (See <http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/uspstf/uspshivi.htm> for further detail). 2) "The USPSTF concludes that the evidence is insufficient to recommend for or against routine screening for overweight in children and adolescents as a means to prevent adverse health outcomes." **Rating: I Recommendation.** (Additional detail at: <http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/uspstf/uspsoch.htm>).

Satellite Medical Update: CDC will be broadcasting "Immunization Update 2005" on Thursday, July 28, from 9-11:30am. The broadcast will be available for viewing in the large conference room at the Henrico County Health department's west office. We will also record the broadcast for future viewing. A course overview can be obtained at www.phppo.cdc.gov/phtn/immup2005/default.asp. Those interested in watching the live broadcast should register at www.phppo.cdc.gov/phtnonline/ and reserve a seat by calling the health department at 501-4522.

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